

REMOVAL OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BLACK SPOT FOR ELECTROCUTION FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF BIRDS OF PREY IN THE PROVINCE OF JAÉN (ANDALUCIA).

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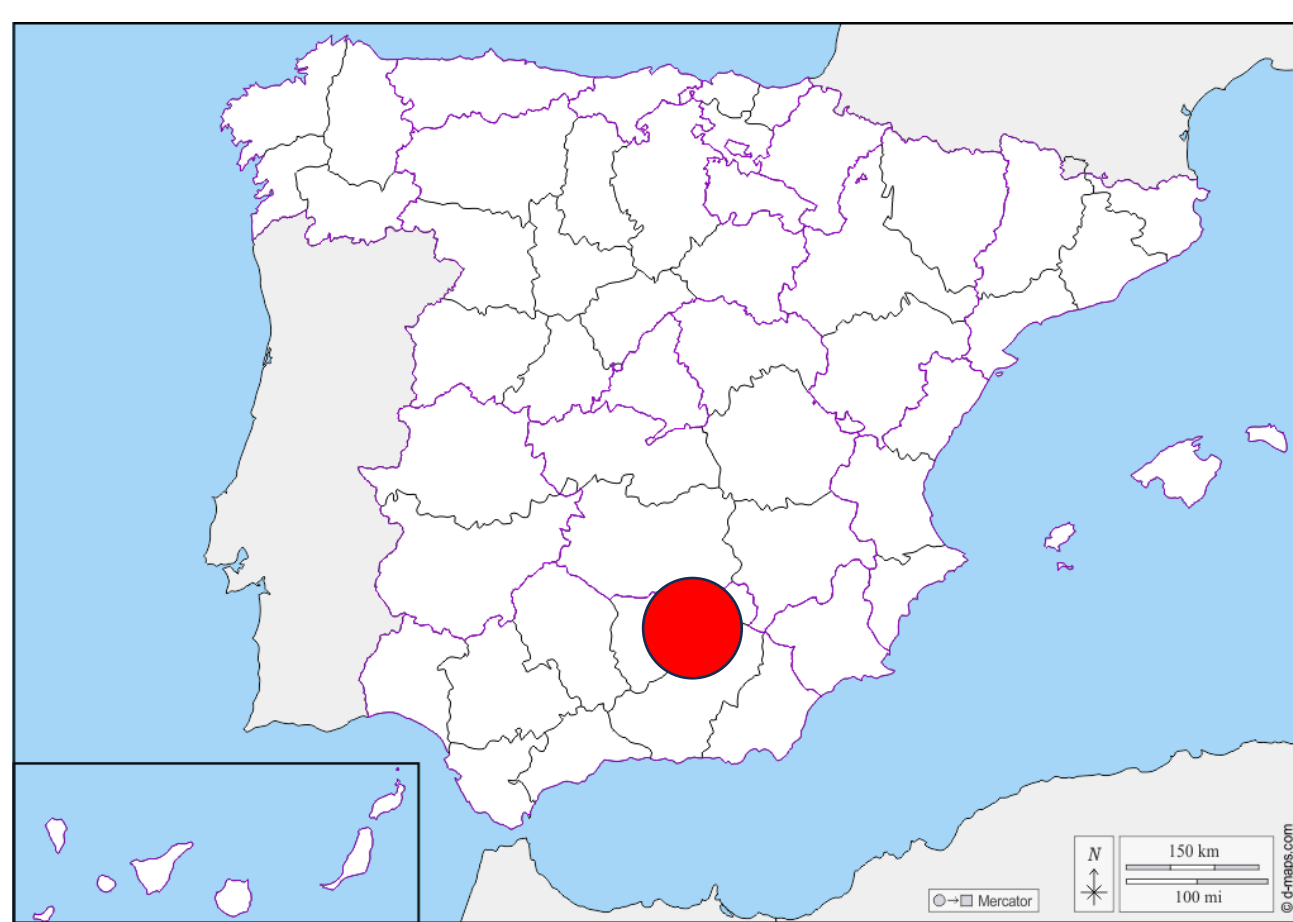
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INTRODUCTION

Electrocution on small privately owned power lines represents a significant yet often underreported source of avian mortality. The correction of these infrastructures is particularly challenging due to fragmented ownership, limited regulatory enforcement, and financial constraints that hinder the implementation of mitigation measures.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 2021, the Regional Government of Andalucía (Junta de Andalucía) informed GREFA of the existence of a privately owned power line located outside the regulatory scope of Royal Decree 1432/2008. Through a joint initiative involving the property owner (Las Yegüas, Linares, Jaén), GREFA with funding from the European project AQUILA a-LIFE (LIFE 16 NAT/ES/00235), and the Regional Government of Andalucía, corrective measures were implemented on 48 electric pylons that had caused the death of more than 50 individuals of endangered species, including Spanish Imperial Eagles (*Aquila adalberti*), Bonelli's eagles (*Aquila fasciata*) and Red Kites (*Milvus milvus*).



RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Simultaneously, in Cazorla Natural Park, also located in Jaén (Andalucía), and likewise in 2021, the Regional Government of Andalucía together with GREFA initiated a Red Kite release program aimed at restoring a species that had become locally extinct decades earlier (Milvus Andalusia Project). Following the retrofitting of the power line, up to 23 different red kites have used the electric pylons, and in 2023 the first breeding pairs were established within the same area of the line corridor. By 2025, the population had increased to 13 breeding pairs of this species in the province of Jaén. One of these pairs has established its breeding territory within the same area as the power line equipped with anti-electrocution mitigation measures.

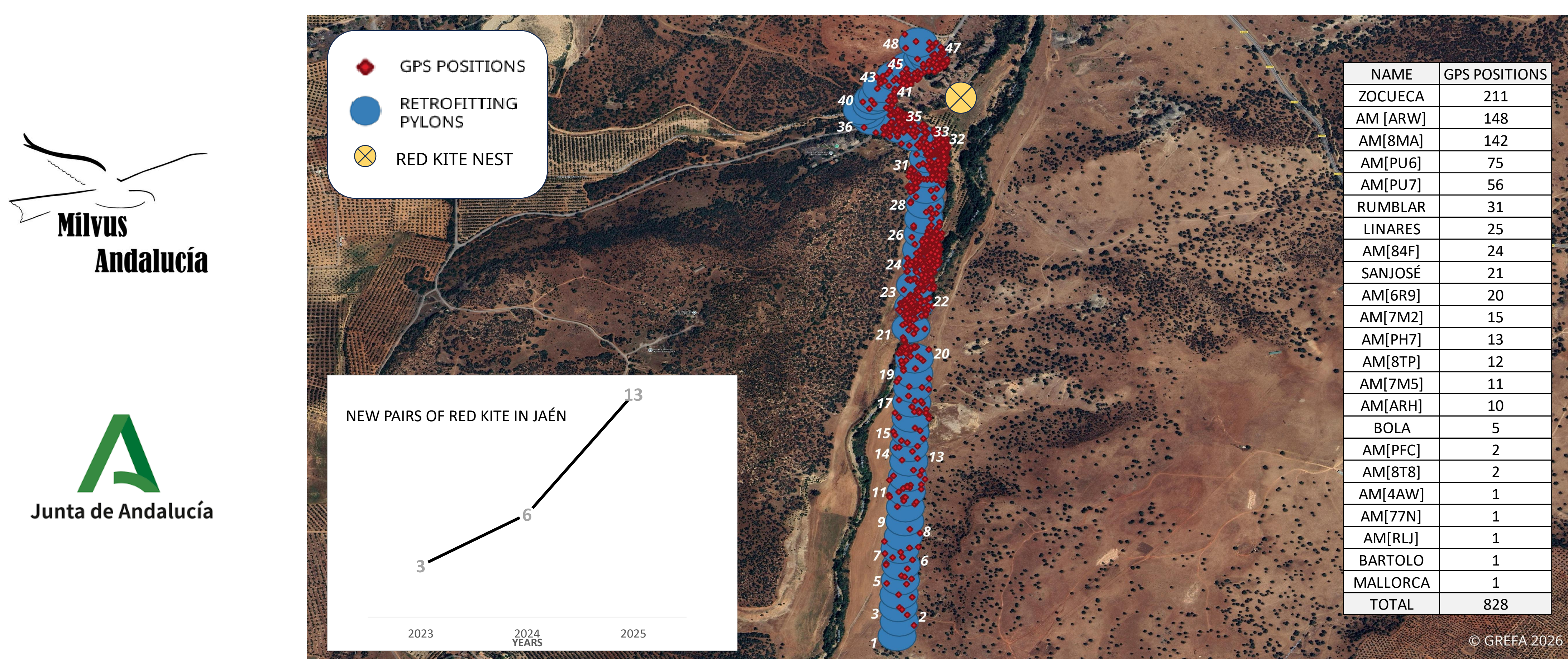
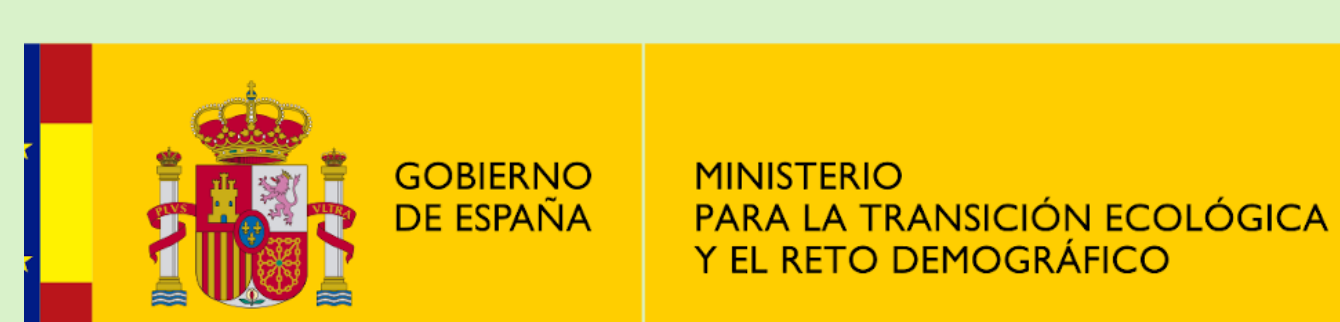


Figure: Use of the retrofitted power line equipped with anti-electrocution measures by GPS-tagged red kites.



This conservation action has been of critical importance for the recovery of the Red Kite in Andalucía (Spain), specifically in the province of Jaén, where the species had disappeared as a breeding population.



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